

AGRICULTURAL HINTS

THE DODDER PEST.

Parasitic Plant That Lives on Alfalfa and Clover and Destroys Their Life.

The appearance of dodder in many alfalfa fields in central New York and other places, has already done considerable damage. The following facts regarding dodder, by L. H. Dewey, of the United States department of agriculture, will be of timely interest: The seeds are generally introduced with impure clover or alfalfa seed, or distributed with hay. They are blown about over the snow or bare ground in winter with pieces of the dead clover and alfalfa stems, but their distribution is effected chiefly by artificial means.

Dodder seeds placed in the soil germinate, under favorable conditions, in practically the same manner as do the seeds of clover or other plants, but instead of two green leaves there appears above the surface a very slender, inconspicuous yellow shoot. This binds to one side, then swings slowly around, lengthening meanwhile, until it strikes a green plant. If no plant upon which it can live is within reach, the dodder seedling dies as soon as it has exhausted the nutrient stored up in the seed. But if the swinging shoot comes against a congenial host, it twines about it, in some places tightly, in others loosely.

One of the most practical methods to complete the eradication of dodder after removing the vegetation from infested spots is to spade or hoe the soil to the depth of about two inches and to keep this stirred so as to prevent the growth of any plants for three weeks. This method is especially recommended if the dodder vines had begun to produce seed before their removal. Fire may be used to destroy the dodder. To destroy by this means seeds that have fallen to the ground, requires a considerable degree of heat maintained for several minutes. This is secured by covering the infested area with light wood or chips well sprinkled with kerosene. Straw or shavings do not produce heat enough close to the ground.

Dodder has been killed in some instances by smothering it with a thick covering of manure, mulch, or ashes, but these methods cannot be recommended. A thick sprinkling of wood ashes when the clover is wet with dew may accomplish the desired result, chiefly through the action of potash, but this method also is unreliable. These methods are for application in fields where the dodder is confined to comparatively small spots. They are not practicable where large areas or considerable portions of a field are infested.

One of the best methods for subduing dodder after it has become widely distributed, says Orange Judd Farmer, is to turn sheep on the land, confining them with a portable fence if necessary, so that they will keep the infested areas closely grazed. While pastured in dodder-infested fields, the sheep should not be moved about the farm any more than is necessary, as they are likely to carry dodder seeds and pieces of the vine in the clefts of their hoofs and in their wool. Dodder can usually be eradicated by thorough cultivation with corn or root crops for two successive seasons. For the destruction of alfalfa dodder and clover dodder, any crops may be cultivated except those of leguminous plants; but, as wary dodder and field dodder grow and thrive almost equally well on a great variety of host plants, only such crops can be grown for their eradication as will admit of clean cultivation.

THE BEE IN THE ORCHARD

Value of the Busy Worker as a Pollen Distributor Cannot Be Overestimated.

The value of the bee in the orchard is well understood and appreciated by the intelligent fruit man; the necessity of the cross-pollination of fruit is almost universally acknowledged and the bee is the most thorough and reliable instrument for its accomplishment. Amateur fruit growers often wonder why their trees do not bear as well as those of fruit growers regularly engaged in the business and apply fertilizers and resort to other expedients, when the fact is, all that is needed is pollen from other trees. The trees bloom well, but the fruit does not set for the want of the pollen which the bee gathers on its feet and body and distributes on the blossoms as it sucks the honey therefrom. A few bees of bees in an orchard will largely increase the yield of fruit, and no farmer should be without them, says the Epitomist. While other insects might help toward pollination, bees are by far the surest and best for the business, and in their absence the hope of a good fruit crop rests upon a slim foundation.

In fighting insects with poison, it has been found that unless they are destroyed by the first application, they are less and less afflicted with it, and finally become practically immune.

Work smartly to save all the bargain measure you can. You will soon want to put on the spring crops.

PLUCKING THE DUCK.

Suggestions for the Best Method for Securing the Crop of Feathers.

The process of plucking the feathers from the live duck is described in the Farmers' Sentinel as follows:

"In the first place, catch your ducks, and right here you can make a mistake. Don't excite and worry the ducks into a panic, as they get terribly frightened when cornered, and will rush from side to side in an effort to get away.

"After you decide where you wish to pick them take some grain and scatter a little along toward the building, finally a little thrown in will get them, as they are so greedy that they will rush in a body, for they are like sheep—where one goes the rest will follow.

"Then close the door on what you think you will have time to pick that morning. Move around quietly, throw only a little grain down at a time, and pick up one while feeding. If you can have a small lath pen in one corner all the better. Induce a few into it at a time by throwing in the grain, and you can then pick up one readily without hardly disturbing the rest.

"Have a box or stool to sit on, also a bushel basket to put the feathers in, with a cloth thrown over the basket when you come out in the wind. Try the feathers by pulling out a few; if they come out easily and no blood follows on the quill, they are ready. You can also notice when it is time to pluck them, they often sit around and work their feathers, and you can see scattering ones on the ground. If not ready, put the duck out and try another, as I have found that all will not be alike.

"Turn the duck on its back, put its head under your left arm, holding its legs in your left hand. Be careful not to hold them too tight and close together. Their legs are set quite wide apart and are easily lamed and hurt. Pick a few feathers out at a time with quick, short jerks. Get most of the feathers off the breast and under parts, leaving the fine down, not disturbing the back, for the duck will be apt to fidget and be a long time recovering. The neck feathers are on the breast.

"If you wish one for dinner, as soon as killed commence picking it dry, as the feathers will come out much easier while warm. Have the tea kettle on, and when you have picked all the feathers and down that will come off readily, scald the rest, and with a small, sharp knife pick and scrape it quite clean. Dip in hot water, then in cold to plump it, and you will have a nice looking duck.

"They seem hard to dress if you don't know how, and you will probably spend a good deal of time over your first one, but practice will soon shorten the work.

"Put the feathers into a flour sack, not too full, and hang them in the wind or by the stove to dry out before putting away. The Pekin duck furnishes such beautiful white feathers for pillows that if you can have time to pick the old ones and those you intend to keep over several times in the summer it will seem to help pay for the feed."

"The cut shows a device for holding all kinds of poultry when dressing it, says a writer in Farm and Home. It is simple in construction and easily made by any blacksmith. A is 5/8 inch ring on short

DEVICE FOR HOLDING FOWLS.

rod, passing through beam, b, a flat piece of steel 3/4 inch wide, 1/2 inch thick, and 6 inches long, so that it will turn like a swivel. The drop, c, is 2 inches long and the ends, d, 3 1/2 inches. Split the end, making a claw, like that of a common nail hammer, only leave it nearly straight, but turned up at an angle of 45 degrees. It can be hung up by the ring, a. Take the fowl by the legs, dead or alive, placing the feet in the ends, and as it will draw down tight in the two claws it will hold itself nicely.

A GARDEN ROLLER.

Two Gallon Jug Makes a Very Serviceable Tool for Preparing the Soil.

Take a two-gallon jug, pick a hole in the center of the bottom with a file or something sharp, and fit a piece of hard

JUG GARDEN ROLLER.

wood to go through the jug. Fill the jug with sand to give it weight, run stick through and fasten each end with a nail. Attach light frame. It makes one of the best rollers for garden I ever saw.—Epitomist.

Farm Waste. "There's mighty few people," said a farmer, "that knows what to do with a farm after they get one."

"I have noticed that," answered his pretty niece from town. "They always insist on giving the whole place up to corn and oats and things, when they might have such lovely tennis courts and golf links."—Tit-Bits.

Keep the Old Geese.

If a part of the geese are to be sold this fall, be careful not to part any that were mated together the past season. I made that mistake last year and last spring they did not breed well. Old geese are the best to raise from, as young geese will have small and weak goslings, which seldom live till grown.

DEVELOPMENT OF BRAIN.

University Professor Propounds New Theory—Mentality Not Dependent on Gray Matter.

Philadelphia.—Dr. Edward Anthony Spitzka, of Columbia university, propounded a new theory of brain development before the meetings of the Association of American Anatomists at the University of Pennsylvania here the other day.

It is, in effect, that the mentality is not dependent on the relative proportion of white and gray matter as much as on the health of the great bundle of fibers known as the corpus callosum, which connect the two sides of the brain.

In announcing his theory, Dr. Spitzka exhibited the brains of more than a dozen men who had been eminent in science, and in each case endeavored to show that they bore out his assertions.

"The relative importance of the white and gray matter in the brain is often misconstrued," he said. "Were it not for the manifold connections of the nerve cells in the cortex with each other as well as with the periphery by means of the millions and millions of fibers which make up the white matter, such a brain would be as useless as a multitude of telephone or telegraph stations with all interconnecting wires destroyed. The corpus callosum is an index which places the brain of man so far over that of the brute. When this structure is defective or diseased it is invariably attended by profound weak mindedness or total idiocy. And the examination of the brains of these notable men possessing large capacity for doing and thinking shows the converse to be quite as true."

BIG SLUMP IN MARRIAGES.

Nearly 1,000 Fewer Licenses Issued in Philadelphia in 1904—Publicity Is Blamed.

Philadelphia.—Notwithstanding 1904 was the first time in eight years that, according to traditions, girls could, with propriety, make proposals of marriage, there were almost 1,000 fewer licenses to wed issued than last year in Philadelphia, and, as figures can't lie, leap year is now characterized by the marriage license clerks as a failure so far as Dan Cupid is concerned.

The annals of the marriage license bureau ever since its establishment have heretofore shown an increase over each preceding year. For instance, 1903's list of marriage licenses granted exceeded those of 1902 by 925, the increase merely representing the city's growth in population. A decrease of upwards of 900 licenses this year as compared with last is therefore extraordinary.

Strange to relate, Mr. Goebel, the chief license clerk, blames the newspapers for the falling off in the volume of business. "In a word, he says publicity has led many bridegrooms and brides-to-be to visit other cities where the issuance of marriage licenses is not published as news," says Goebel.

"The only reason that I can ascribe to the falling off in the number of marriage licenses is that the young folks want to avoid publicity. To my mind the list of licenses should not be published, but, as I am only the clerk I have to give them out to the papers. The publication of licenses has led to hundreds of persons going elsewhere—New York city, for instance, and Wilmington, Del., and in other counties of this state where there is no publicity."

Not Very Accurate.

Astronomers are uncertain whether the planet Mercury rotates in 24 hours, or 88 days. Apparently, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, there continue to be some things that are more exact than astronomy.

MARKET REPORT.

Cincinnati, Feb. 11.		
CATTLE—Common	\$2 65	@ 3 85
Heavy steers	4 65	@ 5 00
CALVES—Extra	5 10	@ 5 75
HOGS—Ch. packers	5 10	@ 5 15
Mixed packers	4 90	@ 5 10
SHEEP—Extra	5 10	@ 5 25
LAMBS—Extra	6 20	@ 7 75
FLOUR—Spring pat.	6 20	@ 6 45
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	1 18	@ 1 20
No. 3 winter	1 11	@ 1 11
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	32 1/2	@ 46 1/2
No. 2 white	47	@ 47
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	32 1/2	@ 33
RYE—No. 2	82	@ 86
HAY—Ch. timothy	12 25	@ 12 25
PORK—Clear mess.	14 25	@ 14 25
LARD—Steam	6 40	@ 6 40
BUTTER—Ch. dairy.	33	@ 33
Choice creamery	33	@ 33
APPLES—Choice	2 75	@ 3 25
POTATOES—Per bu	1 50	@ 1 60
TORRACCO—New	4 00	@ 13 00
Old	4 50	@ 14 75

Chicago.		
FLOUR—Winter pat.	5 10	@ 5 20
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	1 18 1/2	@ 1 19 1/2
No. 3 red.	1 05	@ 1 16
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	40	@ 43 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	30	@ 30 1/2
RYE—No. 2	75	@ 75
PORK—Mess.	12 70	@ 12 75
LARD—Steam	6 72 1/2	@ 6 75

New York.		
FLOUR—Win. str's.	5 50	@ 5 85
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	1 22	@ 1 22
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	35 1/2	@ 35 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	30 1/2	@ 37 1/2
RYE—Western	80	@ 80
PORK—Family	13 25	@ 13 75
LARD—Steam	6 75	@ 7 25

Baltimore.		
CATTLE—Steers	4 50	@ 4 95
SHEEP—No. 1 fat	2 25	@ 2 50
LAMBS—Spring	5 50	@ 6 50
CALVES—Choice	4 00	@ 8 50
HOGS—Dressed	6 25	@ 6 50

Louisville.		
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	1 17	@ 1 17
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	47	@ 47
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	34	@ 34
PORK—Mess.	11 00	@ 11 00
LARD—Pure steam.	6 50	@ 6 50

St. Louis.		
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	1 18	@ 1 18
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	45	@ 45
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	32	@ 32

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Time Table in Effect May 1, 1904.

Going North.	Train 4, Daily
Leave B. res.	3:48 a. m.
Arrive Richmond	4:12 a. m.
Arrive Paris	5:28 a. m.
Arrive Cincinnati	7:50 a. m.

Going South.	Train 6, Daily
Leave Berea	12:55 p. m.
Arrive Richmond	1:25 p. m.
Arrive Paris	3:18 p. m.
Arrive Cincinnati	6:00 p. m.

Going South.	Train 1, Daily
Leave Berea	1:11 p. m.
Arrive Livingston	2:05 p. m.

Going South.	Train 5, Daily
Leave Berea	11:24 p. m.
Arrive Livingston	12:30 a. m.

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